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Sports Preview

Keen Bank to sponsor blood drive, August 29 in Ellendale

Keen Bank is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, August 29, 2024 from 1 - 6 p.m. at the Ellendale Community Center at 507 2nd Avenue, Ellendale, MN 56026. To schedule an appointment or for more information, visit redcrossblood.org.

Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction set for Sept. 5-7

The Blooming Prairie community is kicking it into full force to celebrate the 23rd Annual 2-day Live Auction and other events.

Events kick off Thursday night, September 5, with Premier Gun Bingo. This event gets sold out, so if you are interested in attending, it is a good idea to purchase tickets early. They can be purchased at Coordes Gun Shop in Lansing, the Pizza Cellar, or by calling Connie Trom at 507-456-8431. A highlight of Thursday night is vouchers toward airfare to an African Safari, which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Friday and Saturday night are highlighted by the live auctions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bingo will take place Saturday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday morning, the BP Awesome Blossoms and the Filmore Central Falcons will contribute by hosting events at their 11 a.m. game in BP and by wearing pink.

As usual, the auction itself is shaping up to be incredible with many unique items. A trip to Hawaii with vouchers for airfare will be a big hit, along with other trips and many amazing items. You can check out the highlights on the Facebook page. Raffle Tickets will be sold for a new 2022 CFMOTO 4-wheeler donated by Al & Harriet Severson. Steve Prihoda's Family and friends have once again donated for a Cash Raffle.

See ad on Page 12 for more information

Ellendale Heritage Society to meet on September 7

The next meeting of the Ellendale Heritage society will be August 7 in the community building at 9 a.m.

Waseca Area Foundation Anniversary 7 to 9 p.m. September 19 at Northeast Park Pavilion

The Waseca Area Foundation will celebrate its thirty-fifth anniversary from 7 to 9 p.m. the evening of Thursday, September 19 at Waseca's Northeast Park. Food trucks and live music will be featured. More information is available from the Waseca Area Foundation at 507-835-5990

Woodville Cemetery Tour Sunday, October 6

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is planning a walking tour of Woodville Cemetery for the afternoon of Sunday, October 6. The organization invites interested individuals to keep an eye on the company Facebook page for more information and "sneak peeks."

A word from The Word

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.
1 John 4:18



Among those overseeing the construction work at the NRHEG elementary and secondary sites this summer have been (top from left): Facilities maintenance director Scott Schuller, SitelogIQ coordinator Kevin Nack, district superintendent Michael Meihak and school board chair Rick Schultz. Above left, the bathrooms at the elementary site have received substantial improvements, upgrading both their privacy and their appearance. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

‘Substantially complete’ NRHEG summer construction nearly done

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“There are always complications when it comes to construction projects,” observes Kevin Nack, NRHEG’s “go-to” person when it comes to the array of updates taking place this June, July and August at both the NRHEG elementary and secondary sites. “It’s how they’re dealt with that determines the outcome.”

About \$5 million worth of improvements took place across the two buildings, according to information shared at school board meetings. Probably this year’s largest

“complication” were the extensive rains in June and July, which interrupted the schedule for excavating ground, reshaping it, and then surfacing it as parking.

Parking areas originally scheduled for completion in July received asphalt surfacing the week of August 18; final touches including installing bollards and painting stripes and directional arrows were scheduled for August 26 and 27, weather permitting.

Construction continued on 3



Hofmann Apiary observes World Honeybee Day

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

As visitors arrived at the historic Hofmann Apiary site northeast of Janesville, they were greeted by a to-scale queen bee. Glistening in shades of brown and gold, she greeted workers and drones as they arrived. She reminded them bees have every right to their own celebration, since more than one third of the food humans eat is pollinated—made possible—by bees.

About 150 people visited the open house at the apiary in honor of World Honeybee Day on Saturday, August 17. In addition to being greeted by Twin Cities area beekeeper and honeybee advocate Terry McDaniel, they were able to learn about the practices of the large-scale apiary which once operated on the site. They were treated to free popcorn and live music; a food truck was available for lunch or snacks.

Living in the family home located at the site are Larry and Jan Hofman. Larry, 81, is grandson to apiary operators Emil and Clara Hofman. Larry shares family lore which reveals Emil was operating a farm raising Chester White pigs on the site

when, one day in 1903, a swarm of bees happened to arrive on the property.

“My grandfather knew enough to realize they were looking for a new home,” reveals Larry. “So he fashioned a hive that would meet their needs.”

By 1920, Emil had built what the American Bee Journal described as “the largest apiary in Minnesota,” and was keeping about 1,000 colonies—a number Larry says was “unheard of” at the time.

Today, the buildings where the various tasks of the operation were carried out are still standing. Displays and artifacts help visitors understand some of the demands of the large-scale business.

One intriguing display shows how to make a “bee beard.” By putting a queen bee in a small cage under their chin, the brave at heart will draw in hundreds of worker bees who will position themselves all around her—across the lower part of their face, down their neck and sometimes onto their chest.

Larry mentions his grandfather

Honey continued on 5

School Board NRHEG

NRHEG authorizes new bus, updates phone policies

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular August 19 meeting, NRHEG school board members authorized district transportation director Dan Schmidt to place an order for a new school bus to be brought into service at the beginning of the 2025-'26 school year. Schmidt mentioned the base price for a bus is about \$135,000.

The discussion went on to analyze the status of the district's bus fleet overall. Schmidt reported there are eight route buses and four spares. When asked whether four were needed, he mentioned that certain extracur-

School continued on 5

Jason Casey of Sun Honey LLC was among the venders offering honey for sale during the event.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

I don't want to be the guy on the 10 o'clock news...

The scurs and the Weather Eye were high and dry last week as it ushered in some gorgeous temps until Sunday and Monday. Are we in for more or do the rain gods speak once more? Starting on Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the upper 50's. Sunny on Friday with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the mid-50's. Sunny on Saturday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-50's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the upper 40's. Sunny on Labor Day Monday with highs in the low 70's with lows in the low 50's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-50's. The normal high for September 2nd is 77 and the normal low is 56. After giving their AC a workout, the scurs will be resting comfortably in their hammock on Labor Day Monday.

Crops continue to make headway, although there are some concerns about GDU accumulations and an early frost making a less than stellar crop even worse. As far as GDU's, last week's press release from the SROC in Waseca had it still running about 2% above normal. Not a lot of cushion there, but the last several days of uncomfortably warm weather won't hurt. Corn was denting this past week, so, given a normal finish with a frost in the 1st week of October, we should make that just fine. What we don't need is a sudden cold snap with temps well below normal for an extended period of time. An early frost is always a possibility. While we've been fortunate in that respect the past several years, we know all too well that mid-September frosts occur. Let's hope we're not discussing that at a later date. Soybean aphid spraying has nearly come to a close. With many potential crop insurance claims, the maturity of the crop, adequate soil moisture, increasing numbers of beneficial insects, the calendar date, etc., etc., it becomes much easier to punt.

Back home and off the road for a spell. The trip to Canada followed by the Pro Farmer Crop Tour and the MN State Fair takes a lot of starch out of me. The heat didn't help matters upon my return either. After turning on some tunes in the barn Monday night, sweat was pouring out of me and in my eyes during chores. It made me appreciate the prior week's cooler weather. I was also glad to stay out of it on Saturday at the State Fair. As the crowd got bigger and the sun came out, it made things warm in a hurry. Inside the sheep barn, the fans were moving enough air to keep it relatively comfortable. The architecture of the old WPA building actually helps the heat get out and keeps temps more moderate than some on the fairgrounds. The windows in the roof were also good for natural lighting, making it ideal for trimming sheep during daylight hours. Even though it was positive for those things, the roof also had a propensity to leak when it rained. I don't think I've been in it when it's been raining after they fixed it, but it's only a matter of time given the peaks and valleys design.

So how did we do? We did very well. With Dylan Nohner's expert fitting job, the sheep were at high noon. We had both the champion

ram and champion ewe. What's even better was that one of our ewe lambs owned by Avary Hopper won reserve champion in the open class and 4-H as well. Getting them back home again wasn't without a few minor issues. One of the buck lambs had developed a respiratory infection, so while he was treated by a vet friend at the fair, he needed some additional attention when he got home. Putting the fans on ahead of time to keep the air moving and temperature more comfortable didn't hurt. I get that sometimes you can't make animals live. I just don't want to be the guy on the 10 o'clock news charged with animal abuse.

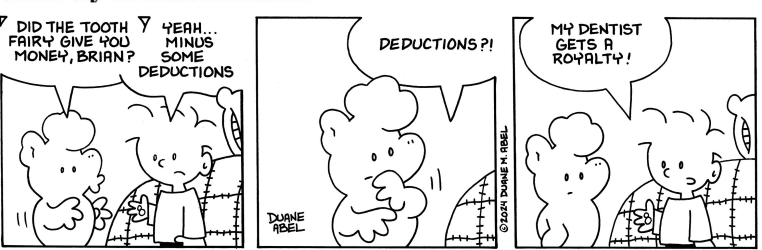
The Crop Tour! I want to hear about the Crop Tour! OK, keep your pants on. It came off without a hitch, even though we had to improvise a bit more due to some unforeseen circumstances. I'm lucky I have such good friends and family, however. Need a ride here or there and a place to stay in order to pull it off? No problem. The Crop Tour itself went about as smoothly as I recall with only a few minor glitches. There are always some of the foreign participants who have trouble making connections, so they can be there the first night. That's unfortunate because it's important to learn how the process works and to get to know people a little ahead of time. It works OK to come in cold, but the interaction with all the scouts the first night, foreign or domestic, sets the tone for much of the event as it moves forward.

How did the crop look? About as expected on the eastern leg. Ohio was decent and close, but not quite on a par perhaps with last year. Indiana and Illinois both had bin buster crops, the best for either state I've seen over the past 21 years. Iowa looked solid with areas that struggled last year back online once again. Minnesota was one of the disappointments, although that was not unexpected. One has to bear in mind that MN is a large state with a lot more corn and soybeans to it than just the southern third of the state. South Dakota was no prize either due to some of the same heavy rains that MN dealt with. Nebraska was Nebraska. Turn on the water, dial up some sunshine and poof! A corn and soybean crop. At any rate, it's another one in the books. As I told my fearless leader Brian Grete, I think I'm starting to get the hang of it.

Poppy was certainly glad to see me when I picked her up from the vet's office where she had been boarded in our absence. She's happy to see just about anyone most of the time. She was quite clingy for several days and I could tell she wasn't thrilled when I'd have to take off to run errands. She was temporarily glad that I came home Monday afternoon during the heat to do some paperwork and correspondence. Her joy was short lived, however, as there was trenching and digging going on down the road. If the noise from that didn't get your attention, Poppy made sure I was aware of it with her carrying on. Such a large amount of barking and growling for a small dog. Hard to get by with anything within a five mile radius if she's on the clock. Even harder to squeeze a nap in.

See you next week...real good then.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



Just the facts, please



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

I wasn't going to do it. I really wasn't. Then I did. And I couldn't stop.

I've been trying to scroll through Facebook without responding to political jabs. I failed in that. I just couldn't take seeing all the blatant lies about candidates. Those of you who are friends with me on Facebook perhaps saw this post on my page:

"As an English teacher, I teach my students about citing sources. When we write persuasive papers, they are required to look at both sides of an argument and find reliable sources to prove their side. These days, we have to talk a lot about what is reliable on the internet. We also explore biased sources.

"With that being said, wouldn't it be nice if we all channeled our old paper-writing habits when posting claims about political figures on Facebook? It's easy to see something which supports our view and quickly share it. But, just like a paper I grade with made-up information, low marks will be assigned when we do that.

"Both sides of the political aisle are guilty of this. Harris, Trump, Walz, and Vance have all been raked across the coals in various memes which are blatantly false. So before quickly sharing as you cackle in glee, maybe take a moment to fact-check. We're so divided right now, but maybe if we just take a moment to focus on issues instead of attacks, we can learn together what's best for our country. It's not false statements and it's not making fun of the other side."

I just couldn't hold it in anymore.

I had started fact-checking people's posts and it was exhausting. I would provide proof that the claim was false. Some people took down those posts. I appreciated that. It's a form of lying if you post false material.

A friend reached out to me after my post. He said, "...no matter our opinion/stance on a certain political issue, even if we disagree with a reliable source, because it doesn't match our opinion, we as humans can't be ignorant to the truth. If we are ignorant to the truth...this leads to conspiracy theories which can be very dangerous."

We want to be ignorant sometimes, don't we? It can be startling if someone we support has said or done something that might not be great. I read last week again about Tim Walz's DUI he had while in Nebraska many years ago. That part is old news, but then it came out that his 2006 campaign denied it had happened. Oof, that doesn't sit well.

This will be used against the Harris/Walz ticket. There's nothing wrong with bringing this forward. After all, we've been scrutinizing Donald Trump's past for some time now. Driving drunk is a serious crime. So is paying money to porn stars to keep quiet so you can get

elected.

So if you're going to get up in arms about this part of Walz's past, then you can't ignore the facts about Trump's past. That's too convenient.

The conspiracy theories that abound are just incredible. In referring to the assassination attempt on Donald Trump, one segment of the population claims that the Democrats set up the hit to get rid of the opposition. Another segment says that the Republicans set it up, knowing it would fail, to make Trump look better. They both can't be right, and it's highly likely that neither is.

The old joke goes that it must be true if you saw it on the internet. I think Abraham Lincoln first said that. But so many of us seem so willing to jump to conclusions the instant we see something that goes along with our stance or the instant someone says something like that. Show me the proof.

Just because many people wanted Trump to win in 2020 does not mean the election was stolen. Study after study and court case after court case has shown that there was a negligible amount of fraud in the election, really no more than in any other election, and certainly not enough to make a difference. Look it up. Find

a reliable source, such as the Associated Press or the BBC. They are unbiased in their reporting, unlike Fox News and CNN. Always check your sources!

I saw a meme that compared Tim Walz in a favorable light compared to JD Vance. The next day, I saw the same meme, only with the names reversed. And both sides are gloating that their favorable opinion is the correct one. Meanwhile, whoever created the original one is just laughing since they probably made it both ways to start with. In reality, maybe both of the vice-presidential candidates could be viewed favorably in that respect.

I remember the first time the candidate I voted for did not win the presidential election. I recall being disappointed, but after watching the winner in office for a time, I accepted that he was doing a fine job. It wasn't perfect and I didn't like everything, but one could see the positive things that were being done.

Can't we get back to this? Look at facts and accept them, even if you don't necessarily like them. Find the positive in a negative situation and recognize that every president of our country has done some positive things. The negative rhetoric from both parties has infected us. And that's a fact.

Word of the Week: This week's word is grawlix, which means the characters used to indicate profanity in a comic, as in, "The cartoonist used grawlix to indicate the politician's displeasure in the comic strip." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

From the family of Brad Tufte

We would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation to everyone who thought of us during these past couple of months. They say time heals the heart, but it seems a loss this huge will take a lot of time to heal. Jannell, Jessica and Justin are forever grateful to those that came to the house, the food and supplies, grabbing the kids to entertain them to help ease their sadness by losing grandpa, the hugs, the calls, the cards, the donations, the flowers, plants and gifts, the beautiful words shared and the numerous stories told about Brad during the Visitation and Celebration.

If ever you have something kind to share about a person who has mentored you or someone who might have made an impact on you, please be sure to share with those that are in their circle because it sure was amazing hearing such stories on how Brad impacted someone else's life. Our life was turned upside down but we are slowly moving forward knowing Brad is watching over us and

laughing with and bragging to everyone in heaven about how proud he is. He would also be so extremely pleased with the amount of help that family, friends, co-workers and neighbors have given. We are so lucky to live in a community that just steps up!

Lastly, to the Geneva Fire Department and the staff on the Ellendale Ambulance teams – we absolutely cannot thank you enough for your promptness on getting to our home, your dedication to your job and the kindness you shared the evening we lost Brad and the weeks following. In a small community, when a call comes in to the Fire Department or Ambulance it is more than likely someone they know or grew up with or a neighbor. I wish the outcome would have been different, but I am blessed to have had such a kind and caring group of people by my side! Being a "Volunteer" might seem like a thankless job – but to our family we are forever thankful to you!

Sacred Heart School
FALL FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 13-14-15 · 2024

EAT
CONCESSION STAND: Under the tent all 3 days
FISH FRY: Friday 5-7 p.m.
PORK LOIN SANDWICHES: Saturday 4:30-7 p.m.
SUNDAY: Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

CELEBRATE
EARLY BIRD BINGO | Saturday Noon
SUPER BINGO | Saturday 2 p.m.
STREET DANCE | Saturday 7:00-10 p.m.
SUNDAY BINGO | Sunday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
RAFFLE DRAWINGS | Sunday 1 p.m.
CHILDREN'S GAMES & ACTIVITIES | All Weekend

SHOP
LIVE AUCTION: Friday 6:30 p.m.
SPIRIT WALL | Friday 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Saturday Noon-7 p.m.
SILENT AUCTION, BOOK FAIR, COUNTRY STORE & WHITE ELEPHANT
Friday 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday Noon-7 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

WORSHIP
FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR MASS | Saturday 5:00 p.m.
MASS | Sunday 10 a.m.

FEATURING
Free Street Dance
BRYCE LEPPERT
Saturday, September 14, 7:00-10 p.m.
Food & Beverages Available

NRHEG
Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREAS and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

PHONE: 507-463-8112
FAX: 507-463-0504, **email:**

Compostings

by Al Batt

The mystery of

Croatoan explained

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I wish I could quit smoking.
Have you ever tried?
Yes, but only between cigarettes.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. Labor Day is galloping our way. It's the traditional day to take down the Christmas tree in the Batt Cave and for the man ahead of me in a checkout line to buy rubber bands. He must not have had a junk drawer. The most common item found there is the rubber band.

I spoke in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I was thrilled by visits to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills, and Roanoke Island.

On August 1587, a group of 117 English settlers arrived on Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now North Carolina. Later that year, the colonists decided that John White, the governor of the new colony, would sail to England to gather a load of supplies. Upon his arrival, a war broke out between England and Spain. Queen Elizabeth I called on every available ship to confront the mighty Spanish Armada. In August 1590, White returned to Roanoke, where he'd left his wife, daughter, infant granddaughter (Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the Americas) and the other settlers. White found a worm in his apple. There was no trace of the colony or its inhabitants and few clues to what might have happened, apart from the single word "Croatoan" carved into a wooden post. They'd disappeared like your brother-in-law when the collection plate was being passed. Croatoan was the name of an island (now Hatteras Island) south of Roanoke and home to a Native American tribe of that name. There are many theories about what happened. English settlers founded a colony 17 years later at Jamestown, a short distance to the north. I think about the Lost Colony every time I can't find something. It lessens my stress.

I'VE LEARNED
When you drive in opposite direction, you've made a wrong turn.
Be careful when carrying a vase of oopsie daisies.
If we are what we eat, shouldn't we be eating more rich foods?
When Midwesterners go to a casino, they win when they break even.
Men's belts shrink with age.
Cursive is a secret code only older people can read.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Before the Iron Age, did people wear wrinkled clothing?
Is egagtrom another term for a reverse mortgage?
Would Noah be called a climate change extremist today?
How hard is it for a driver of a Jeep Compass to become lost?
Does artificial turf get artificial dandelions?
I made a tuna salad yesterday. It turns out tuna prefers herring.

NATURE NOTES
The neighbor washed his car with his son. A chamois cloth would have worked better.
I clung tenaciously to an agreeable day of incredible insect diversity. I noticed no wasp (hornet) looked cuddly, and cabbage white butterflies weren't everywhere, but they were trying. I looked up to check for winged ants. Cornfield and field ants swarm on late summer afternoons. Carpenter ants swarm in the spring. Thistle seeds blew in the wind. The striking orange and black painted lady is one of the most common butterfly species in the world and is called the thistle butterfly. It migrates to warmer climates in winter. Goldenrod bloomed. It isn't the bad guy that causes hay fever. Blame ragweed. Sunflowers and compass plants followed the sun. Chokecherries provided astringent fruit. Sumac turned red and wild cucumber bloomed. Crabgrass, an annual that gets its name from its stems that spread outward and resemble the legs of a crab, showed a dark-reddish stain.

Boxelder bugs congregate on buildings. This native insect feeds on boxelder, maple and ash trees. They love the warm sun on buildings with southern and western exposure. Adult boxelder bugs can easily fly several blocks and may travel as far as two miles. If you want them gone, a simple solution is to add Dawn liquid dishwashing soap to a spray bottle full of water and shake gently to combine. Spray directly on the bugs.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."—James M. Barrie. Be kind.

Construction
from Page 1

Although district superintendent Michael Meihak speculates that the final touches will be an inconvenience for teachers during their start-of-year workshop, the expectation is that they will be fully in place as students arrive on September 2.

According to Meihak, the Ellendale site will now have 68 parking spaces, up from 36. The spots are in a new lot located south of the building. Meihak mentions the newly-paved spaces have a traffic flow intended to encourage parents to use it when dropping off and picking up their children. The hope is student safety will be increased when congestion along School Street is reduced.

The parking lot east of the secondary site will now have 161 spots, rather than the 148 it was designated for in the past. The lot is perhaps 50 feet longer than before, but only slightly wider; new sidewalks and a grass boulevard now take up some of the space adjacent to Ash Avenue.

Meihak says that, although the secondary lot was technically capable of holding 148 cars before, potholes, fading painted lines and other factors typically kept all of them from being used efficiently. The upgraded paving, new lines and clearly marked traffic flow, he hopes, will make it easier to follow through on intended patterns.

Along with the wet weather, another major snag in the process was encountered during the removal of 1950s-era asbestos components in the high school band room. As the process began in June, it was discovered more of the space needed to be disassembled than was previously realized. The district applied for necessary permits well over a month ago, but is still waiting for a reply.

This means the 90 or so students scheduled to use the room throughout the school day will need to "pivot," to use Meihak's term. He suggests the nearby gym may be available as physical education classes prioritize spending time outdoors. The choir room is not scheduled for use every hour of the day. The stage, which is connected to the music room, is also an option. "We have a way of co-operating and working things out,"

stated Meihak. "We'll be able to manage for the short time before the renovations are finished."
Other changes in the buildings, Meihak says, are far less visible to the everyday visitor—although at least one will be easily heard. In both the elementary and secondary site, new fire alert systems have been installed with "state of the art" speakers. In place of the harsh tone of an alarm, occupants will hear a voice stating that a fire has been detected and directing everyone to depart the building. Those same speakers will be available for everyday uses, including giving the daily announcements.
"Since the fire alarm system is updated to be sure everyone in the building is safely notified, we can expect clearer, more consistent sound quality for our building-wide announcements," states Meihak.

Upgrades to the heating, ventilating and cooling (HVAC) systems should also lead to increased efficiency and consistency, Meihak notes. Many of the climate control units are roof mounted; their ages tend to align with the time when the individual sections of the building were first constructed. With a few of the units replaced during this summer's work and others having received upgrades, Meihak predicts the temperature in each building will be more consistent throughout, rather than each room or section having its own temperature idiosyncrasies.

Some bathrooms in each building have been upgraded to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). In the process, they have also become more attractive and modern.

So despite the behind-the-scenes nature of much of the work, Meihak predicts this summer's updates will improve the learning environment for students by making everyday practices and circumstances within the building safer, simpler and more efficient.

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Rainy Summer

interferes with efforts

to improve lakes

By **DEB BENTLY**
Staff writer

Waseca area water technician George Klug has deep respect for the individual ecosystems all lakes represent. Someday, he hopes he'll even understand them.

Locally, Klug is recognized as having installed a relatively small piece of equipment—easily of a size that will fit in a pickup bed—along the shore of Loon Lake. Now in place for the third year, that equipment has helped restore the natural balance of water in a way that wiped out the filamentous algae which had not only created a thick coating of weeds on the lake's surface for many summers, but would then also begin decomposing and produce an obnoxious smell.

Of the transformation, Klug observes Loon Lake is "in a much better spot than it was four years ago, but it still has a long way to go" to have the balance and resilience needed to overcome the many influences which affect it.

Klug has been monitoring three lakes closely since early this summer. Loon Lake is a pet project his company, WQ3D, has taken on without reimbursement. Two others, French Lake northwest of Warsaw, about 9 miles out of Faribault, and Lake Alice, in the center of Fergus Falls, are part of a test project being funded and monitored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

(MPCA). Klug jokes the two lakes have been "under a microscope" given the many pieces of data he has collected regarding their physical and chemical status.

He mentions that the same filamentous algae which had plagued Loon Lake for so long is also a problem on French Lake. But while it took about 10 weeks for Loon Lake's weeds to disappear three years ago, "it's been more of a battle" on French Lake.

He blames what he calls the "washwater" from this summer's excessive rains, explaining that the many chemicals which washed off of nearby streets and lawns not only delayed the effects of the WQ3D process, they did so over and over again. Readings and tests of water quality have been improving, he said, but not at the rate which might have been possible without the many contaminants. Both French and Alice have been showing faster improvement for the past month or so, he observes; French Lake is tested monthly, results on Lake Alice are recorded every two weeks.

The close monitoring not only complies with the MPCA's requested amount of testing, Klug says, but exceeds it. "We're using the testing

process to validate that our equipment is having a positive effect," he explains. "We hope our results will draw more attention, and we'll be able to get funding to use our process in more lakes."

Klug can't help commenting on the number of individuals, agencies and organizations which assert themselves when it comes to projects on lakes. "We spend a lot of time convincing folks to let us improve their water," he jokes. As was described in a Star Eagle article last spring, WQ3D has been working for years to attract state-level attention to its process and was delighted to announce the arrangement it had reached with the MPCA last spring.

"People always want to know 'When will we see results?'" stated Klug. "Well, the first year is mostly a process of detoxification. The second year is when we start to see some genuine recovery, but it's an ongoing process. It can't start until the ice is off the lake in spring, and it has to stop as freeze-up begins late in the

fall."

Along with that, he observes, "Each lake is its own ecosystem. That means results from one location are likely to be very different from results at a different site."

Although it, too, is now beginning to recover, Loon Lake was also negatively affected by washwater; algae turned the water a murky green, and there have been a couple days when the water emitted an odor. Still, Klug says, there are perch and sunfish to be caught. He also predicts that, by winter, ice anglers may be able to pull some 14" walleye from the lake. Though there was a winter kill a couple years back, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has persistently stocked the lake. According to Klug, the DNR uses it as a short-term rearing pond for walleye, stocking them as fry and netting many of them out again when they have grown larger. "But they leave a few behind," he mentions. "So surely some of them are available to be caught."

Photo by Deb Bently

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Enjoying some fishing at the Loon Lake pier are (from left) Monty, 13; Alex, 12; and Juniper Revermann, 11. Thanks to improvements over the past few years, water quality technician George Klug predicts there will be some keeper-size walleyes to be caught in the lake this winter.

Photo by Deb Bently

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OBITUARIES

Gary Dean Hunnicutt

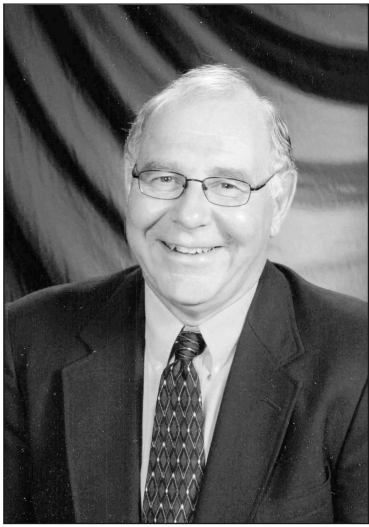
Gary Dean Hunnicutt, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, joined his Heavenly Father on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at the age of 76. His legacy of love, kindness, care, and service will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched.

A funeral service will be held at the Community Lutheran Church in Geneva on Friday, August 30, officiated by Pastor Leandra Anderson. Visitation will take place on Thursday, August 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bayview Freeborn Funeral Home, and also for an hour prior to the service at the church. Following the service, Gary will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife with military honors provided by the Albert Lea American Legion and VFW at Hillcrest Cemetery in Albert Lea.

Gary was born on December 29, 1947 in Albert Lea, the only child to Otis and Dorothy (Bogenschutz) Hunnicutt. He grew up in the Albert Lea area and graduated from Albert Lea High School with the Class of 1965. In 1968, Gary was drafted into the United States Army to serve during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded. His experiences in the war profoundly deepened his faith, strengthening his relationship with God. Gary's actions after returning home reflected the importance of embracing life's second chances, a lesson he shared with those around him.

On April 5, 1975, Gary married Susan "Sue" Nelson, the love of his life. Together, they were blessed with three wonderful children. Gary cherished fatherhood and found immense joy in seeing the world through his children's eyes. Known for his youthful spirit, he remained a big kid at heart throughout his life.

Gary began his career in the ag-business field, reflecting his deep connection to rural life, but later found his calling as a postal clerk in Albert Lea. His warm and friendly demeanor allowed him to form meaningful connections with many people throughout the community. He retired in 2013, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and



Gary Hunnicutt

community spirit.

Gary was also actively involved in his community, serving on the Community Lutheran Church Council, the Thrivent Board, and the City and County Credit Union Board. In his free time, he enjoyed gardening, playing cards, working on home projects, and farming. Gary also participated in several Via de Cristo weekends, sharing his faith with others and forming new friendships.

Gary is survived by his children, who brought him immense pride and joy: Amy (Alex) Kromminga, Eric Hunnicutt (Val Piechowski), and Lisa (Nick) Vreeman. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Duncan Kromminga, Zack Kromminga (Meghan Cooper), Paige Kromminga, and Makenzie Vreeman.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sue; grandsons Braden and Jaden Vreeman; his parents Otis and Dorothy Hunnicutt; and his in-laws Kathleen (Kacky) and Ray Nelson.

Gary's warmth, humor, and deep love for his family will be greatly missed. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

The family would like to thank the staff of Good Samaritan Society and Mayo Clinic Hospice for the compassionate care Gary and Sue received over the past year and half.

Memorials can be sent to Community Lutheran Church or Mayo Clinic Hospice.



An Ellendale inclusive playground rendering shows how the park will have multiple different surfaces and varying options between games and rides.

Ellendale dreams up inclusive playground

By JOHNNIE PHILLIPS, Steele County Times

The city of Ellendale has begun preparations to build an inclusive playground at Ellendale Elementary School that will be accessible to all children.

Easy-to-use structures and games will make the playground enjoyable for everyone – including children

with different physical and cognitive abilities.

According to NRHEG physical education teacher Wendy Schultz, the initial fundraisers for the playground were the kids themselves.

“We had a ‘Coins for Change’ drive at our elementary school. The kids brought in coins or bills. That raised about \$5,000,” said Schultz.

Outside of the kids’ fundraiser, the elementary school received donations from Finley’s Wings at Work (\$5,000), Ellendale Day Parade (\$1,100), Farm and City Days Parade (\$900), and many local families and businesses, along with grant funding.

The Ellendale Community Action Group will also partner with the school to help make the dream come

to life.

According to Schultz, the town has raised \$39,000 toward its \$200,000 goal.

Those interested in assisting via donations can do so by mail to Ellendale Elementary School, 600 School Street, or the Ellendale Community Action Group at PO Box 218, Ellendale, Minnesota 56026.

HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (8/29/24)
1920's Building that became Thompson Implement

This business was localized on the Southside of Ellendale in the 1920's, probably in the building that became Thompson Implement and later Alen Nelson, Allis Chalmers. Theirs and three other buildings were accidentally burned in 1968.

In this photo, the man on the left is Edwen Ellington, the employee. The other man is unidentified, but probably the owner. Guessing from what we can see, it was a mercantile store with suits and clothing in the front and harnesser facility in back. If any corrections or additions, please reach out to Barb Mrotz at 507-688-2257 or Brenda Dokken at 507-402-0336. (8/29/24)

Cover crop strategies field day September 10

The University of Minnesota Extension and Olmsted County SWCD will host a field day focusing on cover crop strategies.

This free event will run 4 – 7 p.m. on September 10, located at Steve Lawler's place in Eyota (44.023910, -92.341220).

University of Minnesota Extension and Lawler Farms will host a field day from 4 – 7 p.m. on September 10, focusing on the A - Z of cover crop strategies. We'll highlight keeping the ground covered via inter-seeding cover crops into soybeans/corn and harvestable cash crops like Winter Camelina/oats. We'll have speakers from Albert Lea Seed, UMN Extension, Forever Green Initiative, Minnesota Ag Water Quality Program (MAWQCP), Olmsted SWCD, MN Soil Health

Coalition and NRCS. Highlights include species selection and equipment discussions from local farmers, a cover crop cost-share comparison resource, termination and grazing options, troubleshooting cover crop challenges and partner organization resources. We'll follow the event with dinner and a beef raffle. See the attached flyer for more details. Register by September 3 to secure a meal.

Registration and event information can be found at z.umn.edu/keepitcovered.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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GENERAC



Terry McDaniels of T McD's Bees in the Twin Cities area is not only a beekeeper, she is a bee activist. She dressed as a queen bee during World Honeybee Day and shared a wealth of information about the insects, their hives, and their habitat.



Above: Jen Selbey is something of an expert in native plants. She represented Edenvale Nursery at Hofmann Apiary. Below: Historic artifacts helped visitors visualize what the Apiary was once like.

■ Honey

from Page 1

made himself a “bee beard” for the centennial celebration held in Janesville in the 1950s. The small cage he used for the queen bee is on display at the apiary, as is a photo of the “beard.”

Also celebrating World Honeybee Day were a number of vendors with stands at the site. New Richland beekeeper Jason Casey was offering some of his “Sun Honey” products for sale. He also had a number of squares of honey-combed wax from a hive. As he picked one up to demonstrate it, a

bee flew out. “It doesn’t mean any harm,” Casey said lightheartedly. “It’s just sniffing around.” Casey revealed he is one two beekeepers who have hives on the apiary property.

Also vending honey was T McD’s Bees—the Twin Cities area company owned by Terry McDaniels, and Strand Honey, a beekeeper located south of Mankato. Along with them was Edenvale Nursery offering native plants for sale.

The 46-acre site at the apiary consists of 10 acres of restored prairie, 5 of restored forest, 20 acres of wetland, and the six-acre building site. More information is available from the organization’s website, www.hofmannapiaries.org

■ School

from Page 1

ricular activities have enough enrollment, or have staggered start times that lead to the need for two buses at a time. Overlapping schedules do sometimes lead to a need for four at once.

Of the district’s 12 buses, two are 15 years old, one is 11 years old; the remainder are eight years old or newer.

Schmidt told board members he is gradually working toward a schedule under which the times between bus replacements would be more evenly spaced, avoiding a need for nearly \$300,000 in expenditures when two buses are purchased. Also part of the discussion was the payment method for new buses: the district has the option of “leasing to own,” thus dividing expenditures out across four or more years, or purchasing outright.

Principals Craig Kopetzki and Grant Berg described the updated cell phone policies at each site.

When asked whether elementary students typically carry cell phones, Kopetzki told board members cell phones have become a common birthday gift for students in third grade. He estimated well over half of third- through fifth-graders have cell phones. The policy at his site, he said, is that students will be expected to leave their cell phones in their lockers from “bell to bell,” in other words, from the beginning to the end of the academic day.

Berg said the policy at the high school is that phones are to be accessed only during lunch and the few minutes of passing time between classes.

Both principals stated the policy is similar to what has been used in the past. The most important aspect going forward, Berg said, is consistent enforcement.

Kopetzki and Berg said they expect some pushback from parents who are likely to complain they want to be able to reach their children. They suggested parents should call the office or make more persistent use of email.

Superintendent Michael Meihak thanked board members and other staff who helped operate the district’s booth at the Steele County fair. The name of Ellendale resident Jenny Vanek was drawn from among the entries submitted by those wanting to win a free pass to school activities for 2024-’25.

The annual superintendent evaluation had originally been scheduled to take place during the August 19 meeting; it was delayed because three school board members were absent.

The terms of school board members Terri Engel, Rich Mueller and Aaron Phillips end December 31. Meihak informed the board the necessary paperwork would be filed to make the selection of next year’s board members part of the Nov. 5 general election. With the filing deadline already past, only Engel and Mueller have indicated they want a spot on the ballot; former district teacher and New Richland resident Kelly Delacruz has also filed for one of the three seats.

District maintenance director Scott Schuller was present at the Aug. 19 meeting to respond to board questions regarding this summer’s construction projects. More information about the construction appears in a separate article in this week’s edition.



Dale Paulson won third place with his 1963 Chevy Impala.



Various scenes from the 2024 Waldorf burger and sweet corn feed which followed the annual car and truck show.



Rick Kendall won second prize with his 1950 Mercury.



Woody and Lori Underwood won first prize with their black 1969 Pontiac GTO.



Hundreds attend annual Waldorf event

Woody and Lori Underwood take first place in antique car and truck show

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Some 52 vintage automobiles were entered in the Waldorf Antique Car and Truck Show the afternoon of Friday, August 23, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Winners included Woody and Lori Underwood who won first prize with their 1969 Pontiac GTO. In sec-

ond place was Rick Kendall with his 1950 Mercury; taking third was Dale Paulson with his 1963 Chevy Impala. Mayor Rob Wilkening had his own pick, a 1930 Model A Ford, owned by Neal Roesler.

The evening continued with the city Fire and Rescue department’s annual sweet corn and burger feed from 5:30 to 8 p.m. With

around 500 people in attendance, the serving line was out the door of the Community Center almost the entire time. For \$10, customers could choose a burger or hot dog, sweet corn, potato chips and all the burger fixings.

After that was the dance which had a \$10 admission fee; those paying for both the meal and the dance received a discounted price

of \$15. The band playing on August 23 in Waldorf was Red Dirt Road, a national band based out of Mankato. The group’s website says about their music, “Top 40 Country music with great harmonies, killer musicianship, and an arena style light show.” The dance went from 8:30 until midnight.

Is it okay to use cruise control during any rain?

ASK A TROOPER
By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol
Question: My husband always used to say "never use your cruise control during any rain".

Is that still true with advances on tires and technology?
Answer: He is correct, cruise control should never be used on wet or icy roadways. If your wheels lose traction, the cruise control will continue to accelerate, causing the vehicle to skid. By the time you realize you are skidding, it could be too late.

With dry road conditions, cruise control helps you safely monitor your speed, stay within the speed limit and improve driving comfort on long, fairly straight stretches of road. It

should be used only when you are able to drive at a steady speed with safe road conditions.

On icy, snow-covered or wet roads.

When deciding if you should set your cruise control:

- Ask yourself if it’s safe to travel the speed limit. If not, it isn’t safe to set your cruise.
- Is there limited visibility? If it’s foggy, snowing, or raining and your range of visibility is significantly reduced, play it safe. Don’t set your cruise.
- Is traffic moving smoothly? If it’s stop-and-go, or there’s heavy traffic around you, it’s not safe to use cruise.

Remember that using your cruise control can be an advantage when driving long distances,

but YOU are your vehicle’s best safety feature.

Question: Hello, we took a trip to the cities this summer. While down there we came across these freeway ramp meters. I know we don’t have those in out-state Minnesota but I thought you might be able to write about it in one of your articles for anyone that travels. Thank you for all you do and be safe!

Answer: Thank you. I don’t believe this is a topic I’ve wrote about before but I’d be happy to do so.

Ramp meters are signal lights on freeway entrance ramps that help control the flow of merging traffic. Like traffic signals at intersections, red, yellow, and green lights indicate when drivers can

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Albert Lea’s Marthaler Honda set to make move to Owatonna

By JONNY CLUBB
Steele County Times

Owatonna’s commercial growth continues as a new car dealership is slated to open on the north side of town sometime within the next year.

“We are supposed to break ground in the next two to three weeks,” said Chris Knutson, owner-operator of Marthaler Honda. Majority owner Aaron Marthaler has eight dealerships throughout the U.S. “The big goal is to break ground before the end of July...The dealership should take about nine months in total from the time they break ground

to the time they have a grand opening.”

The anticipated timeline would have the new dealership ready to open sometime in April or May of 2025.

Marthaler Honda, previously Wuerflein Honda, will be making the move north to Owatonna after being located in Albert Lea for many years.

According to Knutson, the move is “something that Honda has wanted to do for a little while.” Owatonna was chosen because it is “a nice growing community” and is closer to some of the “larger suburbs.”

Even with the move, Marthaler Honda is hoping to retain their customers from Albert Lea.

“We truly hope that...all the customers we’ve served will follow us up there to Owatonna,” Knutson said. “It’s a 26-minute drive up the road, but we’re hoping that (with the) brand new, beautiful building that people will make the trip up there.”

The new dealership in Owatonna will be built on 26th Street between E. Frontage Road and the Straight River. The location offers easy access to those traveling on Interstate 35.

Marthaler Honda will sell new



Marthaler Honda is set to build a new dealership in Owatonna within the next year. The building will be one of the first new-style Honda dealerships and will look similar to the Honda of Altoona dealership pictured above.

Photo from hondaaltoona.com

Honda vehicles with the goal of selling 100 to 150 cars per month. The dealership will also offer auto service.

“We’ll have a brand new, state of the art service facility, as well

as...multiple EV chargers,” Knutson said. This means that the dealership will be equipped to handle both gasoline and electric vehicles.

“We’re just so excited to get up

there and serve the community,” Knutson added. “Not only helping and servicing them in the store, but being a part of the events within the community, as well.”



Symphony on the Prairie set for September 7

North Mankato, Minn. The City of North Mankato and the Mankato Symphony Orchestra are proud to announce the fourth annual concert at Benson Park: Symphony on the Prairie. The concert will run from 6 - 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at the north side of Benson Park (off of Timm Road).

Families are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a beautiful concert by the Mankato Symphony. The setlist includes memorable and popular tunes such as the Star-Spangled Banner, music from Journey, Bohemian Rhapsody, The Stars and Stripes Forever, and more! The performance will also open and close with the North Mankato Post 518 Color

Guard. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the event.

The September 7 concert marks the first concert in the Mankato Symphony’s 74th season. In addition to this concert, the Symphony will offer twenty-two events, including four full-symphony concerts, four Music on the Hill chamber music concerts, and nine See Hear Play: Free Family Fun events and one special benefit concert. Thanks to North Mankato’s generous sponsorship, admission to the September 7 concert is free. A free will offering will be taken during the concert. Early bird subscriptions are available for all other MSO events, beginning August 15. More information, including

ticket purchases, may be found at www.MankatoSymphony.org.

“We’re excited to bring another round of exciting concerts to you,” says MSO Executive Director Bethel Balge. “From Conga del Fuego to The Snowman to Mozart’s Requiem to Dvorak’s Cello Concerto, we’ve got it covered in 2024/25. Symphony on the Prairie will be a great teaser for the season, offering something for everyone!”

Symphony on the Prairie is also made possible by our generous sponsors: Lindsay Windows, Mankato Motors, Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union, and Monarch Healthcare Management. Thank you for supporting this event.

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Here!



Poems about small town life

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Happy, that’s just what we are,
Most always quite content.
And that’s because
We is and was
Without much need to vent.

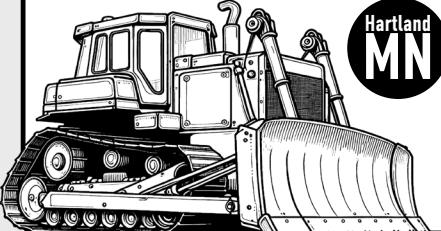
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NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2024

7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)

Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

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OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

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Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Crossword Theme - Universal Freestyle 138

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14						15				16
17										18				
19							20	21						
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46	47				48			49	50					
51				52	53			54				55	56	57
58							59	60						
61							62							
	63						64				65			

ACROSS ➡

DOWN ⬇

DOWN ⬇

1 Hand, in Spanish

5 Like bass voices

9 Word after "fist" or "elbow"

13 Performing well

15 Black-and-white treats

17 Choice that's easy as can be

18 Florida home of the Gasparilla Pirate Fest

19 Dragonflies and fireflies, e.g.

20 Hauls

22 Cloud-watching backdrop

23 (I'm a ghost!)

24 Is in the past?

25 PC alternatives

28 Confide in

32 Id checker?

33 Ready to skinny-dip

34 In the vicinity

37 Picture that doesn't last forever

40 "Given the situation ..."

41 Canvas sneaker brand

42 Cow chow

43 Love-a-Lot or Funshine, e.g.

45 Greek wrap served with tzatziki

46 Core features?

48 Fuel for a bonfire

49 Unreturned volleyball serve

54 Run like a crab

58 A tricycle has three

59 On a chase

61 Smell awful

62 Game that goes into overtime, say

63 Businesses that keep hot stones and mud in stock

64 Name hidden in "stage name"

65 Sauciness, slangily

1 Like some chocolate chips or doughnuts

2 Auth. unknown

3 Catches, as a criminal

4 Fiona, e.g.

5 Like some home-repair projects

6 Years and years

7 Christmas ____

8 Human being

9 That *and* that

10 Risk territory next to Siberia

11 Like an image that is #hilariouslyrelatable

12 "Big ____" (Notorious B.I.G. hit)

14 Triangle on a pool table

16 Sauciness

21 "Thirsty" Transylvanian with multiple brides

23 Brewery container

25 Self-referential

26 Years and years

27 Staple in the entertainment section

29 Kiss cam kiss, say

30 Pod fillers

31 Tit for ____

33 Gritty film genre

35 Wild hog

36 ____ Ma (Grammy-winning cellist)

38 School support grp.

39 Affirmative vote

44 Starliner spacecraft maker

45 Has an aha moment

46 Plays a role

47 Lures

50 Where the sidewalk ends?

52 Wrestler and rapper John

53 Emulates a trivia host

47 Lures

50 Where the sidewalk ends?

52 Wrestler and rapper John

53 Emulates a trivia host

54 Twirl

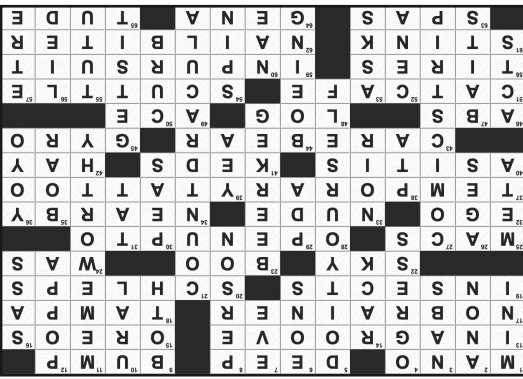
55 What one might wear while twirling

56 Fibbed

57 To be, in French

60 Scot's "not"

Key



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Shown here are two of the pictures that our cabin neighbor Monica Blegen shared with me. One is of the trumpeter swans on our lake and the other is from last year, when the Canadian wildfires put a smokey haze on the lake.

Enjoy your time on earth and love life

I have returned from an extended stay at the cabin and the weather co-operated this time. It was warm (not hot) during the days and nice and cool at night. Simply perfect weather for getting things done.

After I had cut this fallen birch tree up enough to get my pickup up to the cabin and unloaded it, I was pretty-much exhausted. I had cut up part of it into logs that were the right length for the wood stove, I had to decide how to get them to the wood pile. The next morning, I decided to drive to Home Depot in Grand Rapids and buy a cart to attach to my new riding mower. I looked on my phone to make sure they had one. At Home Depot I asked a fellow at the courtesy counter where I might find the carts. He told me and once I found them, I knew I would not be able to get one loaded on my pickup. I found two workers, and they gladly came to my assistance. The man recommended the right cart and he and the lady got it down from the shelf and even waited for me to drive my pickup to the door and they loaded it



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

for me. I can't say enough good about the customer service at that store. The cart was ideal for what I need it for. It was easy to put together. I loaded the wood in it and brought it to the wood pile. That cart is perfect for what I will use it for at the cabin.

I even took a little time to do some fishing. I had driven to the grocery store in Bigfork and on my way, I spotted a sign that said, "Scenic State Park 7 miles." After I left the store, I took that road to the State Park and drove right to the fishing pier. After I had walked a short distance, I realized that the wind was strong and blowing straight into the pier, so fishing there was out of the question. I explored a little more and found that

they had a nice boat ramp where a couple were in the process of launching their boat. I will file this in my memory bank for next time. I can envision a future visit to this park and maybe bring a boat, so I can investigate the lake.

I then headed south on Hwy. 38 to the turn-off for Turtle Lake Road. I drove a few miles to the public access road, which is quite long and curvy. I fished off of the dock with just a jig and plastic. I could see the fish as they followed my lure, which drew a crowd of small bass and perch, but no takers. The water in that lake is very clear, so you can see the fish as they tease you into thinking they want the bait. I was thinking to myself that I should have bought

some night crawlers to tip my jig with. Maybe next time I will do that.

Until next time: On a sad note, my neighbor at the cabin, Chris, who lives in Pemberton, was also up at his cabin for a few days, and I noticed that he must have left during the night. The next morning, I was getting ready to head home when I got a text from Chris telling me that his wife, Monica, had passed away unexpectedly. I was having a hard time wrapping my head around that. She was such a nice person and often shared pictures from the lake that she had taken. One time she sent me a video of the trumpeter swans swimming in front of their cabin, which I really appreciated. Those two were inseparable and I know that Chris is having a hard time with it. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Please show your support for our troops who are now deployed. These servicemen and women are making that sacrifice, so that we may have the many freedoms that we enjoy today.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month)
Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Frerichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELLEDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

HOLLANDALE REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship;

10:45 a.m. Sunday School
ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA
Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Dave Klawiter
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMS
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarks Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomyisl.webs.com
www.stsidoreschool.webs.com

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL UNITED
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)

THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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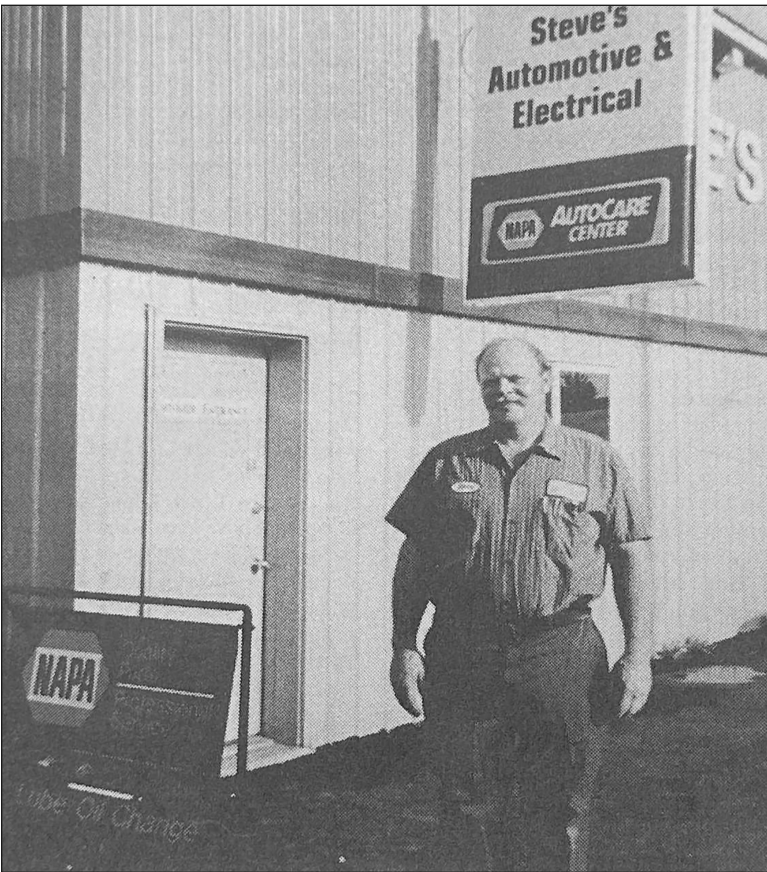
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LOOKING BACK

25 years back Ellendale Eagle



● **Steve VanRavenhorst stands in front of his new building, Steve's Automotive/Electrical.** Steve's Automotive and Electrical is now at a new location. Steve Van Ravenhorst of Clarks Grove started out his automotive repair business in the back portion of the Clarks Grove Hardware store on May 15, 1995. The business grew and soon had outgrown the space he had to work in. That new building became a reality exactly three years later, and on May 15, 1998 he opened the doors at his new location. Steve's Automotive and Electrical is a NAPA Auto Care Center. "I have really good mechanics working for me and they are Tino Flores, Mike Piechowski, Mike Nelson, and several who work part time: Del Brouwers and Cory Westeng. Lois Snow does the Secretary work.

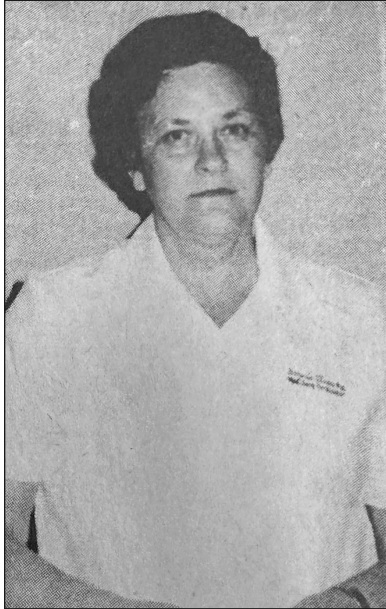
● "Rebuilding," a supportive program for the separated, widowed, or divorced, will begin a new session Tuesday August 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Associated Church, 800 Havana road, Owatonna. The "Rebuilding" program offers a nonthreatening supportive atmosphere assisting in personal growth and socialization. Topics on any evening may include feelings dealing with denial, loneliness, rejection, guilt, grief, anger, letting go, self concept, friendships leftovers, love, trust, sexuality, responsibilities, singleness or freedom.

● Nikki and Todd Schumaker of Glenville became the parents of a son on August 2, 1999. Proud grandfather is Kent Toft of Blaine and proud first time great grandparents are Kenneth and Evie Toft. Hildred Sorenson has moved to Country Neighbors in New Richlands, and I am sure that she would appreciate visits and cards from her many friends and family in our area. Wyman Jensen underwent heart surgery at St. Marys Hospital in Rochester this past week. We hope that Wyman is soon feeling much better, and will be able to return home again to Mabel.

● A recent study conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association showed that more than half the households in the United States are home to one or more companion animals. Many owners consider their pets to be members of the family and display photographs of their pets in their offices and on their walls at home. According to Dr. John Freeman, the immediate past president of the American Veterinary association, "Animals are becoming increasingly important within the family structure. Twenty years ago it was almost unheard of for people to treat pets like one of their children."

50 years back

● Mr. and Mrs. Jim Anderson and Jodi of Crystal were Saturday and Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N.H. Ohnstad. Sunday evening guests of Gen and John Wayne were Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Koppen of Rake, IA. They enjoyed supper at the Standard together and returned to the Wayne home for visiting. Mr. and Mrs. N.H. Ohnstad visited her sister Lillian James Sunday evening at the Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home in Waseca. Mr. and Mrs. George Moriarty visited the Larry Bennett family in Clinton Falls on Sunday.



● Pictured, Bonnie Sloan, Mable Dobberstein. Nursing—a profession of service that is often unseen, almost always unheralded. Mabel commented that she has worked in every department since 1947. She has also worked in Waseca, Wells, and Mankato, and outpatient home care and dialysis. Her love of nursing started when she was very young. Bonnie Sloan took a three-year RN program and has worked at Owatonna hospital for 18 and a half years.

● The annual Freeborn County Hall of Fame fastpitch softball game was held in Geneva on Friday night. The Albert Lea city team took home the victory with a 13-7 score. The Albert Team consisted of Jim Beach, David Gilbertson, Bill Chicos. Wayne Feurhelm, Carl "Bud" Hoffman, Don Drommerhausen, Viril Ryan, Dennis Jensen, Joe Carlin, Herb Sorenson, Ron Mathews, while the country team consisted of Warren Torgerson, Brian Muri, Gary Hanson, Harold Thompson, Barry Hoffman, Bill Kaiser, Eldon Kath, Ken Sibirud, Robert Rickheim, Chris Peterson, Lewis Wasemean, John Stegenga, Vince Johnson, Elmer Stegenga.

Compiled by Payge Rosacker

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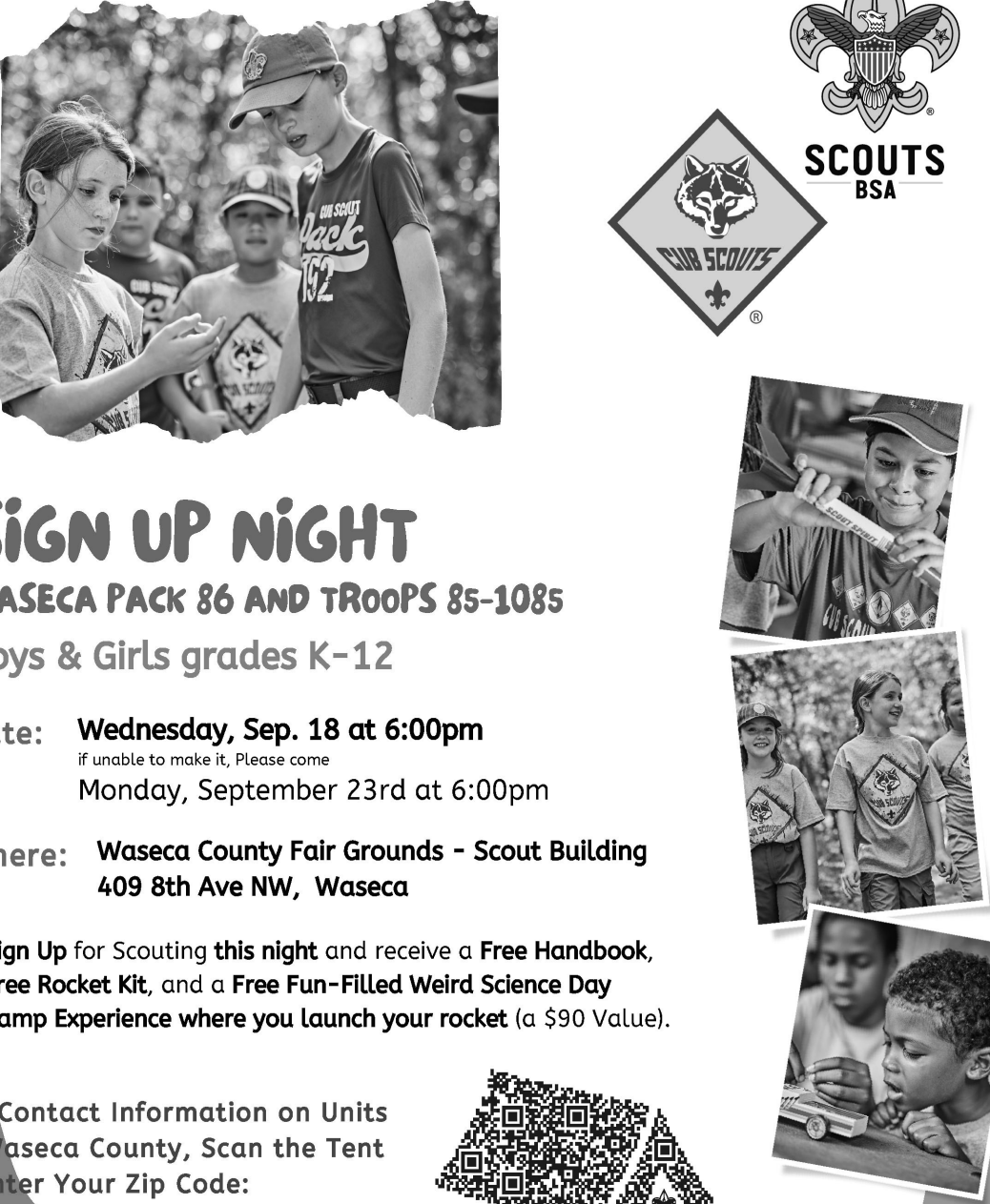
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if unable to make it, Please come

Monday, September 23rd at 6:00pm

Where: Waseca County Fair Grounds - Scout Building

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 81-PR-24-545

In Re: Estate of
VIOLA ADELINE BUSKE, AKA VIOLA BUSKE,
Decedent.

NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INTESTATE)

Notice is given that an amended application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. No Will has been presented for probate. The Registrar accepted the amended application and appointed Dawn R. Odenthal, whose address is 805 Lexington Avenue North, New Prague, MN 56071, to serve as the personal representative of the Decedent's estate.

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the Decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: August 12, 2024 Cassie Norell, Deputy Probate Registrar

Dated: Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

WORNSON GOGGINS, PC

Eric B. Brever (MN# 0338138)

119 East Main Street

New Prague, MN 56071

Telephone: 952-758-4161

Facsimile: 952-758-4085

e-mail: ebrever@lawyersnp.com

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Electronically Served
8/19/2024 12:29 PM
Waseca County, MN

81-PR-24-552

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
August 19, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 81-PR-24-552

Estate of
John F. Miller,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on September 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., a hearing will be held via zoom, in this Court at 307 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Jona J. McCormick, whose address is 36399 River Point Drive, Astoria, OR, 97103 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in ☒ an UNSUPERVISED ☐ a SUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. See notice of remote hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: BY THE COURT08/19/2024 08:10:55 AM

Judge of District Court

Dated: Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Steven H. Fink
Farrish Johnson Law Office, Chtd.
1907 Excel Drive
Mankato, MN, 56001
Attorney License No: 0175328
Telephone: (507) 625-2525
FAX: (507) 625-4394
Email: sfink@farrishlaw.com

Notice of Public Hearing

The HRA of New Richland, known as Royal Villa, has updated its Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) for the Public Housing Program in compliance with the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act. This policy is available for review at the office located at 221 1st St. NE, New Richland, during the hours of 9 am and 12 pm, Monday through Thursday.

In addition, notice is hereby given that the Housing Authority of the HRA of New Richland will hold a public hearing on Wednesday 16th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Gail A. Schmidt, Executive Director
HRA of New Richland
Royal Villa Apartments

New coach optimistic about prospects for NRHEG volleyball

Tennis takes over veteran-laden squad that finished 14-11 last year

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Bethany Tennis may be in her inaugural season as head volleyball coach at NRHEG High School, but she's no stranger to the sport.

And she's optimistic and excited for the 2024 season.

Tennis, NRHEG's eighth-grade volleyball coach the last two seasons, inherits a veteran varsity squad coming off a record of 14-11 overall and 6-5 in the Gopher Conference.

Returning varsity athletes include seniors Aryanna Howe, Mallory Schlinger, Avah Reich and Aspyn Stenzel, juniors Gabby Schlaak, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Chloe Stork, Addy Stadheim, Nora Flatness, Chloe Riewer and Izley Boerner, and sophomore Annika Ladlie.

The Panthers are looking to replace talented graduates Hallie Schultz, Faith Nielsen, Madi Murray and Tayler Schmidt. Schultz, an all-conference selec-

"We want to create effective team dynamics in the gym that helps develop a positive Panther volleyball culture."

— Coach Bethany Tennis

tion, finished her Panther career as the all-time leader in assists with 1,883.

Tennis, assisted by Corrine Schuller and Jen Hatton, said the Panthers aim to play competitive within the conference while growing in their skills.

"We want to create effective team dynamics in the gym that helps develop a positive Panther volleyball culture," she said.

Hard work is a must.

"We do not have many players with varsity experience, but our players this season have drive and determination to create a strong defense and dynamic offense," said Tennis. "We have a lot of work to do and these girls are ready to put in the time."

Maintaining consistency throughout all levels of competitive play and finding ways to adjust quickly to opponents is, according to Tennis, the key to success for the 2024 Panthers.

"We need to develop team perseverance and tenacity while facing the challenges throughout the season," she said.

Originally from Hayward, Minn., Tennis played volleyball for multiple clubs in Albert Lea, where she started at setter before transitioning to libero throughout high school. She was Academic All-State and a team captain. She played volleyball and softball through high school and club rugby in college for a year. She played college volleyball at

Gustavus Adolphus.

What does Tennis expect to see in her first year as NRHEG head volleyball coach?

"One of the benefits I have coming into the head position is that I have made relationships with many of the younger athletes from being their 8th-grade coach," she said. "The girls all know I have really high expectations of them on and off the court and they have been working very hard in the preseason so far. I expect to see competitive teams throughout all levels of our program and hope that we can create a positive gym culture, one in which we can achieve team goals and face challenges with tenacity."

Practice has went well so far.

"The energy in the gym is high, but there is always room for more," said Tennis. "We have been injury-free so far and hope to continue that streak through-

Volleyball continued on 11



VARSITY VETERANS — Returning for the 2024 NRHEG High School volleyball team are, front from left: Addy Stadheim Mallory Schlinger, Chloe Riewer; back: Chloe Stork, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Gabby Schlaak. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



JUNIOR VARSITY — The 2024 NRHEG High School junior varsity volleyball team. Front from left: Izley Boerner, Kayden Warke, Cierra Stenzel, Tatum Thibodeau and Jovey Knudson; back: Kyera Eustice, Clara Buendorf, Kylie Olson, Meela Budach and Quinn VanMaldeghem. Not pictured: Brooklyn Sommer. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

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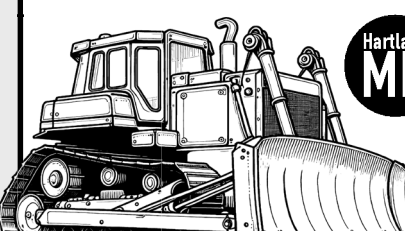
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NEW LEADER — New NRHEG head volleyball coach Bethany Tennis likes what she's seen so far from her squad.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

■ Volleyball

from Page 10

out the season."

Tennis' philosophy as a coach?

"Philosophy is a challenging word for me," she stated. "I largely feel that my philosophy is still being developed given the fact that I am a young coach. As with most works in progress, I will do some things better than others and that's on me to assess and improve. Yes, I have many ideas as a coach I value, but most importantly it's as simple as supporting my athletes. Each team that I've coached has had a different skill set, strengths, and weaknesses meaning I need flexibility within my coaching style. Overall, I want my girls to know that I'm in their corner. I want what's best for the team while simultaneously working on each athlete individually. The journey is more important than the destination. Giving student athletes opportunities to find success, experience loss, and develop as a teammate is imperative for their journey. A few major things for me is teaching my athletes the inherent benefit of working hard at everything they do, creating a strong sense of drive and purpose not only in the gym but also in other aspects

of life they are passionate about. I also stress the importance of intention during practice. I love to spend a lot of time on basic ball control drills because it's the foundational skill of every single point they will play. Every time we touch a volleyball we are being intentional with our thought process and body to make sure we are challenging ourselves to be the best we can be."

In conclusion, Tennis said she's grateful for the opportunity to be the Panthers' head coach.

"I am super thankful for the NRHEG community," she said. "This will be my fourth year teaching and third year coaching for the district. This community cares about their schools and athletes, and it shows."

NRHEG volleyball 2024 schedule
Aug. 27 at Alden-Conger, 7 p.m.
Aug. 30 at Tri-City United, 7:15
Sept. 3 vs. Waseca, 7:15
Sept. 5 vs. Triton, 7:15
Sept. 10 at United So. Central, 7:15
Sept. 12 vs. WEM, 7:15
Sept. 17 at Medford, 7:15
Sept. 19 vs. Bethlehem Acad., 7:15
Sept. 21 at USC Inv., 9 a.m.
Sept. 23 vs. Jordan, 7:15
Sept. 26 at Blooming Prairie
Sept. 28 at TCU Inv., 8:30 a.m.
Oct. 1 vs. Hayfield, 7:15
Oct. 3 at JWP, 7:15
Oct. 8 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Oct. 10 vs. Maple River, 7:15
Oct. 15 at Randolph, 7:15
Oct. 21 Section tournament, TBD
Oct. 24 Section tournament, TBD
Oct. 29 Section tournament, TBD
Oct. 31 Section finals at St. Peter



BACK FOR MORE — The NRHEG High School cross country teams return their top runner for the girls' team, Julienna Wobbrock, left, and Jacob Karl, right, for the boys' team.



CC girls return almost everyone

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

This fall, the expectations for the NRHEG High School cross country team may be higher than usual.

It's because almost nobody graduated off the 2023 squad.

Led by eighth-grader Julienna Wobbrock, who emerged as the team's top runner about midseason last year, the Panthers and second-year head coach Larry Nydegger are cautiously optimistic.

In addition to Wobbrock, an all-conference performer who finished third in the conference and in the top 20 of Section 2A last fall, the Panthers also return junior Holly Bartness, sophomore Amelia Duryee and eighth-grader Elle Jenno.

Led by 8th-grader Wobbrock, Panthers are optimistic

"This is a young team with a great deal of potential."

— Coach Larry Nydegger

Newcomers who figure to contribute to the varsity are senior Sierra Misgen, eighth-grader Devlin McWilliams and seventh-grader Violette Botten.

The girls finished fourth in the conference and 10th in the section last year.

Junior Jacob Karl led the boys' squad last season, when he was a consistent runner who took all-con-

ference honors while taking third in the conference meet.

"He had a good summer program," said Nydegger.

According to the coach, the Panthers will aim for continued improvement throughout the season, peaking for the postseason.

"The No. 1 goal every year is to improve," said Nydegger. "Improve times over last year and week to week. This is a young team with a great deal of potential. With such a small team, staying healthy is key."

Nydegger pegs Maple River and WEM/JWP as the conference favorites for both girls and boys.

NRHEG cross country 2024 schedule
Aug. 29 at Stewartville, 4 p.m.
Sept. 5 at Hayfield (Oaks GC), 4:15
Sept. 10 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Sept. 17 NRHEG Invitational, 4:30
Sept. 26 at WEM/JWP Inv., 4:30
Oct. 3 at Waseca Inv., 4 p.m.
Oct. 8 at USC (Oak View), 4:30
Oct. 15 Gopher Conf. Meet, 4 p.m.
Oct. 24 Section at Norwood-YA, 3:45

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LEADERSHIP — The 2024 NRHEG High School football team seniors. Front from left: Gavin Sletten, Jace Ihrke, Carter Martens, Seth Staloch, Aidan Schlaak, Jase Knudson and Jayden Fleming. Back: Logan Schiell, Cole Hutchins, Owen Bartlett, Coach Kruger, Alden Dobberstein, Harbor Cromwell, Aaden Hanna.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bentley

Football Panthers return plethora of players

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If the offseason is any indication, it should be an exciting year for the NRHEG High School football team. The Panthers, who have a slew of returning varsity players, have done plenty of preseason work to prepare. "We have a lot of talent and experience," said seventh-year head coach Marc Kruger. "We are looking to build off last season and make a run at the sub-district and sections playoffs. We feel we can compete with all the teams in our area. We are still looking forward to very tough competition."

The Panthers, 4-1 in the Mid-Southeast District last year, finished 4-5 overall. That's their best finish in

the last five years, and one they definitely aim to improve on this fall. Kruger's NRHEG squads have gone a combined 23-29, including a section tournament title and state berth in his first season.

Returning varsity athletes include seniors Aidan Schlaak (WR DB 6-5 175), Alden Dobberstein (QB DB 6-1 165), Aaden Hanna (WR DB 6-3 185), Owen Bartlett (WR DB 6-0 195), Harbor Cromwell (RB LB 5-10 180), Seth Staloch (RB DB 5-10 145), Gavin Sletten (RB LB 6-0 195), Carter Martens (OL DL 5-10 200), Jace Ihrke (OL DL 6-0 250), Jayden Flemmig (OL DL 5-10 225), Cole Hutchens (OL DL 6-0 215) and Jase Knudson (TE DL 6-2 210), juniors Quen Meyering (WR DB 6-

2 150), Jordan Brouwers (OL DE 6-0 190), Trevor Selover (OL DL 6-3 315) and Wyatt Larson (TE DE 5-11 195), sophomores Chase Johanssen (WR DB 5-9 140), Ryan Schlaak (RB LB 6-0 180), Brooks Gilliland (QB DE 5-11 160), Brendan Schmidt (WR DB 5-11 130), Lavon Jewison (WR DB 6-1 145), Jack Bartlett (WR DB 5-10 135), Colton Conroy (TE LB 6-0 170), Fynn Baumann (TE DE 6-0 155) and Shane Service (OL DL 5-7 170), and freshmen Dakota Schlaak (QB DB 5-8 120), Calvin Nissen (RB LB 5-7 130), Levi Whiteside (QB LB 5-8 160), Braxton Arnold (WR DB 5-8 125), Charles Tufte (WR DB 5-2 100), Sean Lassahn (RB LB 5-8 160), Braydon Rollag (WR DB 5-10

"This will be an exciting season for NRHEG football." — **Coach Marc Kruger**

140), Ajay Arndt (TE DL 5-7 160), Noah Weller (TE DE 6-1 170), Lincoln Quade (TE DB 5-8 150), Connor Louks (OL DL 5-10 205), Corey Seedorf (OL DL 6-1 230), Dylan Schroht (OL DE 6-0 185), Zander Hanna (OL DE 5-11 165), Devon Mattson (OL DL 5-8 160), Korbin Johnson (OL DL 6-0 215), Hunter McMann (OL DL 6-0 190) and Kailin Hudson (OL DL 6-0 360).

The Panthers graduated just one key player from a year ago, Jaylin

Raab, who's now playing at Gustavus Adolphus College. The Panthers have, in Coach Kruger's words, a loaded senior class, with many two and three-year starters. "We may not be deep with experience beyond that," he said. The key to success for the Panthers, according to Kruger, are to maintain solidarity through the grind of a football season. "We will have a lot of ups and downs, but this is a solid group,"

said Kruger, who's assisted by Neil Fuchs, Jeff Jimenez, Chad Sykes, Dan Bell, Jacob Schuller, Brain Belcourt and Aaron Gilliland. "This will be an exciting season for NRHEG football," said Kruger. "This team put in a lot of work this offseason and I can not wait to see it pay out on the field."

NRHEG football 2024 schedule
Aug. 29 vs. Randolph, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 at Norwood-YA, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13 vs. Mayer Lutheran, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20 at St. Clair/Loyola, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27 vs. Medford, 7 p.m. (HC)
Oct. 4 at WEM, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10 vs. JWP, 7 p.m.
Oct. 16 at United South Central, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22 Section quarterfinals
Oct. 26 Section semifinals
Nov. 1 Section finals at JWP

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